

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 3, 2006

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mary Manross, Mayor of Scottsdale, Chairperson	*Carolyn McBurney, Envision Project Management
*Mark Armstrong, MC Superior Court	Lisa Melton, Community Legal Services
Tony Vidale for John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ Criminal Justice Commission	*Michael Parascandola, City of Goodyear
Dena Salter for Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center	Chris Groninger for Leah Meyers, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	Celeste Adams for Janice Parker, Save the Family Foundation
*Gene D'Adamo, The Arizona Republic	*Don Peyton, City of Phoenix Fire Dept.
Evelyn Buckner for JoAnn Del-Colle, Governor's Office	Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
Moises Gallegos for Phoenix Family Advocacy Center	Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa
*Laura Guild, DES	Fred Scott, Councilmember of Goodyear
Shannon Cotton for Cindy Hallman, Marley House	*Patricia Stevens, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
Crystal Reidy for Bill Hart, Office of the Attorney General	Kris Scharlau for Judy Tapscott, City of Tempe
Michael Donovan for Dan Hughes, City of Surprise	Sherri Lauritano for Kerry G. Wangberg, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix, Public Affairs Bureau, Vice Chair	Rick Ybarra, Value Options
Candace Johnson, Prehab of Arizona	<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>
Alice Gharib for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging	Teresa Franquiz, MAG
Sandra Renteria for Phoenix Police Department	DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter	Brenda Holland, City of Goodyear
*Phil Lieberman, Councilmember of Glendale	Natalie Lewis, City of Scottsdale
*Jodi Beckley Liggett, AZ Foundation for Women	Bruce Raden, Congress Shadegg
Stephanie Prybyl for Betty Lynch, Councilmember of Avondale	Amy St. Peter, MAG
*JoEllen Lynn, American Express	Brent Stockwell, City of Scottsdale
*Maricopa County Department of Public Health	Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix
	Tracey Wilkinson, Scottsdale Police

+ Those attending by video/audio
conference

* Those not present or represented by
proxy

1. Call to Order

Mayor Manross called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. She welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the January 1, 2006 Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Manross asked if there were any revisions to the June 1, 2006 meeting minutes. There were none. Councilmember Scott moved to approve the minutes. Dena Salter seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

Mayor Manross introduced Evelyn Buckner, Governor's Office, Division for Women, to provide an update on the activities of the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. Ms. Buckner began by saying that the Governor's Office has partnered with the Arizona Department of Economic Security's (DES) Office for Children, Youth and Families to extend and continue the Morrison Institute study "Layers of Meaning" that was published late last year. The focus of this second part of the study will be on the attitudes of prosecutors, court personnel, and victim advocates. They anticipate this portion of the study will be completed by August 31, 2007.

Ms. Buckner commented that DES is also partnering with the Governor's Office to host a community conversation about the unmet needs of DV victims at the State Capitol on August 30. She referred members to the handout. She invited members and others to attend.

She went on to announce that the Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women's Project will be conducting two more free trainings on how to help immigrant women who are victims of DV and sexual assault. Trainings have already been conducted in Maricopa County, Pinal County and Yavapai County. The project is also currently working on a one-day law enforcement training. This training will be delivered twice, on October 2 and October 5, 2006 in Yuma, Florence, Tucson and Wilcox. Credit will be available from AZPOST.

Ms. Buckner added that Rachel Whyte has been hired by the Division for Women to focus specifically on the work of the Commission. In the future, she will likely be involved with the MAG Regional DV Council as a proxy for JoAnn Del-Colle.

Ms. Buckner added that she personally serves on the Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence in the Courts (CIDVIC). The Committee is now working to develop a set of comprehensive statewide rules of civil procedure and family law. They expect that by January 1, 2008 their work will be complete. This will provide more distinct information for judges to rely upon when hearing DV cases.

Ms. Buckner stated that the DV STOP grant is coming out August 28 and applications will be due on October 1. A pre-proposers conference will be held on September 11. All current DV STOP grant recipients will be going through the competitive process. Four renewal projects will be competing.

Mayor Manross asked how many times the grant can be renewed. Ms. Buckner stated once only. The first grant period is for 18 months, with the option of a 12-month renewal. Recipients must then go through the competitive process again.

Vice Chair Humphrey reiterated the importance of the Morrison Institute study and thanked the Governor's Office and DES for continuing to support this research. The first report on law enforcement was exceptional. This second part will answer a lot of unanswered questions and will allow officials to better address the issue of DV through public policy.

Dr. Fred Scott requested that Teresa Franquiz email the Council members the information on who they should contact with the Governor's Office for more information about the DV STOP grant. Ms. Franquiz said that she would send this out to all of the members.

5. Legislative Update

Chair Manross introduced Chris Groninger, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AzCADV), to provide a summary of the domestic violence related items addressed at the Arizona State Legislature this year. Ms. Groninger listed the following legislative items:

- ❑ The legislature passed legislation making it a crime to interfere with the placement of a telephone call during an emergency.
- ❑ The fiscal year 2007 budget increased funding for DV shelter beds by \$2.8 million, with \$700,000 earmarked to go to faith based service providers.
- ❑ Legislation was passed to allow eviction protection for a victim to include circumstances in which another party called or summoned emergency personnel on the victim's behalf.
- ❑ The bill to increase the penalties for strangulation/suffocation from a simple assault to aggravated assault did not pass.

Ms. Groninger said that AzCADV is looking forward to the next session, and thanked the members who had responded to the legislative needs survey distributed via email the prior week.

Some goals for next year include looking at budget increases for DES and the development of a legal assistance fund for DV survivors. She also noted that she has arranged meetings with the Multi-Housing Association to discuss the lease termination bill that did not pass this year.

Mayor Manross asked if there will be anything the Council needs to expect in the next session. Ms. Groninger replied that the Coalition will be looking at the Landlord Tenant Act, and issues of lease discrimination. These issues include not renting to an individual because they have existing orders of protection, or because they previously had terminated their lease early. She met with the Multi-Housing Association last week to discuss these issues and she said that these will likely be the toughest challenges. She added that the media attention around the strangulation bill that did not pass this year will hopefully lead to its passing relatively easily in the next session.

Mayor Manross thanked Ms. Groninger for her report.

6. Stakeholder Group Updates

Victim Services:

Ms. Franquiz updated the Council on the progress of the economic case statement report. She reported that the Victim Services (VS) Stakeholders Group has been working since April of this year on a report to highlight the fiscal impact of DV, especially on local criminal justice systems. This is a joint project of the VS group and the ASU Partnership for Community Development. The group developed a survey with the input of local criminal justice officials, including police officers, prosecutors, and municipal court judges. The survey was meant to capture data about the costs of providing criminal justice services in DV cases.

The original intent was to provide the survey to all of the municipalities in the MAG region, but after a small pilot study was done with just four cities, the group realized that gathering this volume of information within the allotted timeframe was going to be impossible. It was decided to concentrate on getting the best data possible for the handful of pilot cities that were initially approached to participate, with the addition of one more city.

In the end, the Cities of Avondale, Glendale, Phoenix and Scottsdale participated in the survey. She thanked the police, prosecutors, and municipal court officials in these cities who took the time to provide feedback on the survey instrument itself and to respond to the survey.

The partners at ASU, and an economist at MAG, helped to analyze the data. As of two weeks ago, an initial draft report is complete, and the group is now in the process of reaching out to relevant stakeholders in order to solicit their feedback and gain their buy-in. A final draft will be ready for this Council to vote on at the meeting in October. The document will be sent out well in advance of the meeting so that everyone will have ample opportunity to review it, and respond if they have any feedback.

There were a couple of really interesting points that the group found in the course of pulling this report together. First, very few studies like this have been done before. A number have been done on the fiscal impact of DV upon victims themselves, upon

private business, and upon the health care system, but not much has been done on the cost of DV to the public sector. One reason this might be the case is that it is very difficult to pull together standard data across different jurisdictions. This is especially true here in Maricopa County, where there are so many different municipalities within the region that are so unique. Out of necessity, all the municipalities track this kind of data just a little bit differently. So, the attempt to glean information across jurisdictions using one universal survey tool was a relatively difficult way to conduct this type of study.

One of the final recommendations in the report will likely be to continue this research with further studies, possibly by concentrating on just one municipality, or one municipality at a time, so that researchers can really dig in and track more closely how the data is captured uniquely in that particular jurisdiction.

A final caveat is that the report just barely scratches the surface. This was a first attempt at a very small pilot study. There is a whole universe of costs that were not included within the scope of this initial study, including prison costs, costs of supervised probation, and costs to family courts, among others.

Mayor Manross thanked Ms. Franquiz for her report. There were no questions or comments at this time.

Human Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC) Youth Policy Stakeholders Group:

Ms. Franquiz provided the Council with an update on the joint project of the DV Council and the HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholders Group. She said she was happy to announce that the group received word from the Governor's Office for Children, Youth & Families in early July that MAG has been awarded a new Innovative grant to implement the Youth Empowerment Project that's been discussed over the last few months. She thanked to the Governor's Office, and Evelyn Buckner and JoAnn Del-Colle, for their support.

Ms. Franquiz briefly provided background on the project for new members. MAG staff and community partners conducted several focus groups all around the Valley in the summer of 2005 to get public input on how people feel about human services and what their current priorities are. Groups were conducted with various subpopulations – DV survivors, homeless, seniors, and with youth. Across the board, all of the youth group participants reported that they do not feel especially safe in their homes, in their schools, or in their wider communities. Many of them reported that they or someone they personally knew had experienced domestic violence and/or teen dating violence.

The Youth Policy Stakeholders group decided that they wanted to take up this issue in some way, but we needed more specific information from youth about what they felt could be done. We conducted 11 focus groups with over 140 youth over a two-month

period. The results of those focus groups were discussed with the Council at the last meeting in June. Staff also provided a written survey to schools, and posted it online.

The results of the written survey are available in the handout packet. At last count, about 410 youth responded to the survey, which was a phenomenal response and much more than was initially expected. Largely, the results of the written survey do reflect what was found from the youth in the focus groups. Over half reported that they or someone they know has experienced family or dating violence. Well more than half say that they already know where to go for help or information about DV. Ms. Franquiz noted that you can see that they all know the “right” answers, or where they “should” go, such as going to schools officials and to their parents. On the written survey, going to friends takes third place. However, what was not asked on the written survey was where youth would really go first if they were personally in this situation. This was asked in the focus groups. Overwhelmingly, the teens in the focus groups said they would go to their friends first. She noted that you can begin to see this in their response to question #10 on the written survey when answering where would they go if they needed protection from a violent situation.

The other theme to the results is that teens want to talk openly about these issues. They don’t want to feel that it is a taboo subject that they should avoid. They want to have opportunities to talk about it freely.

Ms. Franquiz said that staff and the Youth Policy Group are really pleased with the results of both the focus groups and the written survey, and with the number of responses received.

She went on to explain how these results relate to the Youth Empowerment Project. She noted the process objectives chart that was submitted with the grant proposal in the handouts. This chart will explain in greater detail the steps necessary to implement the project. It consists of four pieces, with one piece being significantly larger than the other three:

First, the group will develop a resource list of services specifically for teens to which they can self-refer. Examples of these types of services would be Teen Lifeline and the new Centers for Disease Control website called Choose Respect. Again, teens say that they go to each other first for help, so if we can put appropriate resource information into their hands, maybe they will be more well-equipped to provide useful advice to a friend if and when they are approached.

Second, the group will develop a FAQ sheet about the steps of reporting violence and what some of the potential outcomes may be. While this can be scary information, a lot of teens had said that while they understand what DV and dating violence is, and that they know some places they can go for help, they don’t know what would actually happen if they did reach out. This lack of information can be scarier for them than the actual consequences of reporting.

Third, the group will work with the Communications Division at MAG to record two teen testimonials, with disguised features as necessary. These testimonials will be placed on the MAG website in the form of a slide presentation with voiceover. Youth most often respond positively when they are hearing from other youth who have been through similar situations.

The final big piece to the project that is being starting right away is a public service announcement (PSA) competition for youth, aged junior high through high school. The PSAs will drive the viewer to the MAG website where all of the information mentioned above will be posted. Often, public relations materials that we develop ourselves do not resonate with youth because they are not current, or fresh, enough. The goal of this piece of the project is to give youth the opportunity to develop those PR materials themselves, and design the PSAs in their own way, given parameters that will be set by the Youth Policy Stakeholders Group.

There will be several categories in which the youth can complete, either in English or Spanish: video format, radio, print, web and photo novella. The winning video selection will be professionally produced by the Communications staff at MAG and the Youth Policy Group will work with our community partners to ensure that it gets broad coverage in mainstream media outlets, such as possibly playing it at sporting events during pre-game or half-time, at movie theaters before the show begins, and possibly at local film festivals.

The group is going to work very quickly over the next two months to get this competition set up and ready to go. She thanked everyone on the Council who has participated so far, and asked that others get involved if they are interested in this project. The next Youth Policy meeting is on Wednesday August 30 from 11am – 12pm at MAG in the Cholla Room.

Mayor Manross thanked Ms. Franquiz for the report. There were no further questions or comments at this time.

DV Awareness Month Press Conference Planning Stakeholder Group:

Ms. Franquiz provided an update on the plans for this year's DV Awareness Month press conference. She reported that the press conference planning group has met twice so far. The timing has worked out well as it relates to the Youth Empowerment Project because the group has decided to kick-off the PSA competition at the press conference. This will be the first public announcement of the competition and the speakers will let viewers know that they can go to the MAG website to get more information and download all of the competition application materials.

The focus of this year's press conference will be on youth experiencing family and/or teen dating violence. This will be a nice sequel to last year's event when we talked specifically about dating violence and how to recognize the warning signs of an abusive relationship. This focus will be more about what youth can do to help each other when abuse has been identified. We hope to have a very internet-friendly

theme, since all of the resources we are developing will eventually be made available online. The tagline that is proposed is “Web of Friends”. The graphic artist at MAG is working on some draft logos with that tagline.

The date is tentatively set for Thursday September 28, which allows less than two months to prepare. The group hopes to identify a centrally located school or library to host the event, especially one with a technology focus. Metro Tech High School at 19th Ave and Thomas has been contacted to see if they would be interested. There is a connection with EVIT in Mesa, but the preference would be a central location with the hopes that it would be more accessible for the media. She asked if any members have connections at schools that might be appropriate, to please let her know.

The speaker line-up will include Mayor Manross, who can bookend the other speakers by opening and closing the press conference. Also, the group would like to identify a teen who has some experience with these issues, either him or herself, or as a teen counselor or peer mentor. The group members who work with teens regularly can likely assist with this, but if Council members have specific suggestions, please let staff know. The group also hopes to identify a local celebrity who is someone teens can identify with. This could possibly be a sports figure or a local DJ. She asked the members for suggestions.

The group is also tentatively looking into possibly hosting a live online chat for teens, either on the day of the press conference or the weekend following it. It would be moderated by one or two professionals who work with youth on a regular basis and who would be there to answer questions as they are posted and guide the discussion. This would be an opportunity for teens to ask questions of a professional and get answers in real-time. It also provides an opportunity for youth to hear from others their own age who are experiencing similar issues, so that they do not feel so alone. Feasibility is still being tested, as there are technical issues to consider, as well as how to protect the privacy of the youth participating, and keeping out potential predators.

Mayor Manross thanked Ms. Franquiz for her report and cautioned the group when seeking a local celebrity. She recommended doing a very good background check on whoever might be invited to speak. She spoke of an experience she had in shooting a commercial for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America with a celebrity who ended up being involved in questionable activities. The commercial had to be pulled from the air at the last minute.

Moe Gallegos commented that the web chat is a good idea and said that the youth minister at his church uses myspace.com to interact with youth. This has been incredibly successful in getting youth to talk, and helping parents to understand some of the things their youth are going through. He thought this was a great place for making connections.

Connie Phillips said that Planned Parenthood has a prevention group called Positive Force Players and suggested contacting them to get them involved in the press conference and Youth Empowerment Project.

Stephanie Prybyl suggested that a potential speaker for the press conference could be one of the drivers from the Phoenix International Raceway. She noted that they are typically very young and youth could easily identify with them.

Mayor Manross called for a motion to approve the plans of the Stakeholder Group for the DV Awareness Month press conference. Councilmember Scott moved to approve and Moe Gallegos seconded. The plans were unanimously approved.

Health Cares About Family Violence Stakeholder Group:

Dena Salter provided a final summary of the group's completed projects. She thanked Mayor Manross and the Council for having her and noted that Dr. Casaletto is in North Carolina and had asked her to fill in.

She said she is happy to report that Health Cares About Family Violence has recently completed each of the projects it's been working on over the last one to two years. She thanked all of the members for their support of the group and the direction they have provided. The group would like to wrap up their activities by presenting this final update to the Council on where they are with each of three projects.

The nurses' training that Ms. Salter presented at the last meeting has been distributed to eight nursing schools and to other health care groups upon request. Boswell Hospital in Sun City and Del Webb in Sun City West have recently contacted the group to provide the training to their nursing staff. She has also been invited to provide the training to each new nursing class at Apollo College. The goal is provide this training once, and then provide the materials to a key contact person at the location who can carry on with additional trainings later. This training will continue to be available upon request. She asked members to contact Ms. Franquiz if they know of any health care providers that would like to invite a Health Cares About Family Violence member to come out and give the training.

The physicians' training "Responding to Domestic Violence in Child Health Care Settings" was developed by Dr. Anu Partap with Maricopa Medical Center. She was the Chair of Health Cares before Dr. Casaletto. There was an initial screening of the training here at MAG in early June and it was very well received. It combines a slide presentation with voiceover by Dr. Partap, with video vignettes. The training is now available online at the AZ Child Health Links website. The address is www.azchl.org. Just follow the links under "Trainings". CME units are available for physicians who complete this training. DVD copies of the training are being provided to each hospital in Maricopa County and will continue to be available by request.

Council approved a modified version of the HITS screening assessment tool at their April meeting, with a slight revision in June. This tool will be used to assist

emergency department personnel in screening their patients for domestic violence. The question was, “Because we care about your general health, we’re asking everyone: Have you been in a relationship in the last year where you have been hit, insulted, threatened or screamed at?” Health Cares partnered with the AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence to purchase laminated lanyard cards that can be worn behind health providers’ ID badges. The cards include the question in English and in Spanish, and essential referral phone numbers. These cards were distributed to all the local emergency departments in June, along with the red and black screening poster above the sign-in table.

There has been a great response to the materials so far. Additional materials have been requested by at least three hospitals. The Coalition purchased extra, so if any members know of organizations that can use these lanyard cards, please call the Coalition and speak to Elizabeth. The phone number is 602.279.2900.

The conclusion of these three projects completes the work of Health Cares About Family Violence Stakeholders Group for now. Staff sent thank you letters to each of the members for all of their time and energy. Some of the members are continuing to work with the issue of health care and DV through the Coalition’s Health Issues Committee. This group plans to roll out a “train the trainer” program to four rural health care centers early next year. Ms. Franquiz has been participating in this group to make sure the Maricopa perspective is included and that efforts aren’t duplicated.

She thanked the Council very much for their time and continued support of the Health Cares group. She said it has been a pleasure working with the Council and they look forward to staying involved and continuing to provide the health care perspective.

Mayor Manross called for a motion to approve the conclusion of the Health Cares About Family Violence Stakeholder Group activities. Councilmember Scott moved to approve and Moe Gallegos seconded. The plans were unanimously approved.

7. Overview of Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine

Mayor Manross introduced Brent Stockwell, City of Scottsdale, who provided an overview of the Coalition’s process, goals and action plans. See attached slide presentation. Mr. Stockwell began by saying that the NE Valley Coalition wanted to address the issue of meth use in a stronger way than simply placing pseudoephedrine drugs behind the counter. The Scottsdale Council directed staff to pursue a grant from the Governor’s Office in order to form a Coalition to address the issue and put together an action plan.

He noted that this is one of 22 coalitions statewide, and one of two in Maricopa County. The other is located at the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office. Their first meeting was a great success, with a wide variety of speakers and 60 community stakeholders attending.

The timeline for the entire project is relatively short, as they are trying to accomplish the work of a 12-month grant in a nine month period. He said that at the first meeting, they found that a lot is being done, but that many people do not know what is already going on in their communities, or outside their own organizations.

There will be a training on August 18 to help determine the data that is currently available. At the last two meetings, there were two TV stations covering the event. He noted the high level of interest in this subject and the real need for people to know where to go for resources. Some of their partners are ASU, Banner Health, school districts, Community Bridges, Interfaith Network in Scottsdale, and Save the Family, among others. There is room for many more. They have worked very hard to get participation from tribal communities as well. The meetings are held each time in different locations to allow more people to attend.

The project's strengths have been broad participation, and community and media interest. The Coalition is looking for more than temporary solutions, and aim to put together an action plan that will actually improve the situation and change behavior. In doing so, they hope to help employers, schools, and parents to know what to do about these issues.

The next meeting will be held in Cave Creek, with the following at Fort McDowell. He asked for members to contact him if they are interested in getting more details. He noted the content of the handouts, which included information on the Governor's Office grant, and an overview of the Coalition. One handout shows how they started the group and what they did, in case others are interested in forming similar organizations. There is also general information about meth from the Attorney General's Office.

Dr. Scott congratulated Mr. Stockwell and the City of Scottsdale on this activity. He stressed that the key to behavioral change is the confluence of education and collaboration. He suggested getting specific types of health care providers involved, such as toxicologists and emergency department physicians. Mr. Stockwell thanked him for his comments and will follow up with him for more specific recommendations on health care providers.

Mayor Manross said that her City Council felt they had to do something about this issue because using meth just once or twice can cause addiction and destroy a life, unlike other types of drugs. She thought other members might be interested in getting a Coalition started in their own communities. She thanked Mr. Stockwell for his presentation and the Council members for listening.

8. Announcements

Sherri Lauritano announced that August 11 will be DV Awareness Night with the Arizona Diamondbacks at Chase Field. They will be handing out baseball cards, put together by Verizon Wireless, that show pitcher Brendan Webb and have DV information on them. Ms. Lauritano said they are in need of people to volunteer to

pass out cards to the general public at 4:00 p.m. on game day. A community corner table will also be set up with DV information. If anyone would like their organization's information included, please get it to her by 4:00 p.m.. Flyers are also available for distribution.

Mr. Gallegos commented that it is easy to buy tickets for the game to support a good cause. If members are not able to attend, another option is to buy the tickets and give them away.

He also announced that the City of Phoenix is moving forward with hiring a new director for the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center. If members would like more information, they can go to City of Phoenix website for the job description. He continued by saying they had been working to get a victim advocate position in the downtown court, noting there has been a huge need for help with orders of protection. The victim advocate will be supervised out of the FAC and the person in this position started this week. Their focus will be on the needs of victims and connecting them with resources at the Center and elsewhere in community. He expressed his pleasure in serving on the Council, although when a new director is hired, he will be returning to the City's Human Services Department.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. Mayor Manross thanked everyone for their participation. The next Regional DV Council meeting will be on Thursday, October 5 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Saguaro Room.